

Message Text

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC, UNGA, PORG

SUBJECT: GOL PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS YEAR

REF: A) MONROVIA 3300; B) GENEVA 7142

1. WHILE DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE POINT THAT THE
LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORTED U.S. IN MULTILATERAL
FORA ON MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO US, THE LIBERIAN
PROPOSAL TO DECLARE 1980 AS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
YEAR PRESENTS PROBLEMS.

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A. REF A REPORTS THAT LIBERIANS INTEND TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL
AT ECOSOC SUMMER SESSION IN GENEVA, BUT THE SCOPE OF THE
PROPOSAL APPEARS TO EXCEED CONSIDERABLY ECOSOC'S AREAS OF
RESPONSIBILITY BY INCLUDING SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE POLITICAL,
LEGAL, AND PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES OF THE UN SYSTEM.

B. BY CITING THE NEED FOR A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE

SUCCESS AND FAILURES OF THE UN SYSTEM AND WHAT GOVERNMENTS CAN DO TO STRENGTHEN THE UN SYSTEM, THE LIBERIAN PROPOSAL SEEMS TO BE CALLING FOR A MEETING OR SERIES OF MEETINGS WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE CREATION OF SOME SORT OF AD HOC BODY TO FURTHER STUDY THE UN FAMILY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM. THE UN SYSTEM IS ALREADY ENGAGED IN A LARGE-SCALE EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNGA RESOLUTION ON RESTRUCTURING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN SYSTEM PASSED LAST DECEMBER. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING, WHICH WERE THE RESULT OF A TWO YEAR STUDY CONDUCTED BY AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY WELL TAKE ANOTHER TWO YEARS TO BE IMPLEMENTED. FURTHERMORE, THE UN ALREADY HAS ON-GOING MACHINERY (SPECIAL UN COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER AND IMPROVING THE ORGANIZATION) TO CONSIDER WAYS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN AS A WHOLE. THE DEPARTMENT, THEREFORE, QUESTIONS THE VALUE OR FEASIBILITY OF UNDERTAKING YET ANOTHER REFORM EXERCISE AT THIS TIME.

C. HOLDING TOO MANY INTERNATIONAL YEARS BLUNTS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE THAT ARE TRULY SPECIAL, AND WE SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK TO CONTROL THE PROLIFERATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS. ECOSOC, ITSELF, ENDORSED IN RESOLUTION 2098 (LXIII) LAST YEAR THE VIEW THAT THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS AND ANNIVERSARIES SHOULD BE MORE LIMITED IN ORDER TO FOCUS ATTENTION AND SECURE ACTION ON

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THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES. WHILE DECLARING AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR MAY, IN SOME CASES, SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN FOCUSING WORLD ATTENTION ON NEGLECTED BUT IMPORTANT ISSUES, THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT AGREE THAT THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FIT INTO THIS CATEGORY.

2. THE DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, IS RELUCTANT TO REJECT CATEGORICALLY LIBERIA'S PROPOSAL BEFORE DETERMINING THE REACTION OF OTHER NATIONS TO THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS YEAR. THEREFORE THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY MONROVIA REPLY BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATING SIMPLY THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE OPERATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM, BUT THAT, WHILE WE ARE KEEPING THEIR PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE CANNOT ASSURE THEM OF OUR SUPPORT. IN DELIVERING THE NOTE, THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE LIBERIANS OF OUR CONCERN THAT AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS YEAR MIGHT SPAWN A SECOND RESTRUCTURING EFFORT BEFORE THE UN SYSTEM HAS HAD A CHANCE TO IMPLEMENT ALL FACETS OF ITS PRESENT EFFORT. ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION THE EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN FROM THE LIBERIANS REGARDING WHAT THEY HOPE TO SEE COME OUT OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

YEAR WOULD BE USEFUL.

3. FOR USUN: DEPARTMENT REQUESTS MISSION SOUND OUT KEY
WEO AND SELECTED G-77 MISSIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY
TOO HAVE BEEN APPROACHED RECENTLY BY THE LIBERIANS AND
WHAT REACTION, IF ANY, THEY HAVE TO THE PROPOSAL. DEPART-
MENT WOULD FURTHER APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT USUN MIGHT BE ABLE
TO SHED ON WHETHER THE LIBERIAN MISSION FORMALLY SUBMITTED

ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS YEAR PROPOSAL DURING THE
32ND UNGA AND WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, THE UNGA MIGHT HAVE
TAKEN. VANCE

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